



The Transformer

February 2019

717-866-4910

Friedens Lutheran Church, 301 W. Washington Ave., Myerstown, PA

Dear Friends in Christ,

Over the past couple of weeks, weather has been a frequent conversation topic. Whenever someone gives the weather report, describes the polar vortex, gives snowfall a poetic description, or expresses concern over road condition, I offer my stock response, "It's winter."

My persona is not exactly "Winter Wonderland Grinch," but snow does not inspire me to do a happy dance. The one exception to disagreeable winter feelings is when I am inside with hot chocolate in hand, fireplace glowing, and watching snowflakes fall. But then I remember that the "white stuff" has to get shoveled. As I said, "It's winter."

Two Ministry Possibilities

This month I bring to your attention two ministry possibilities that fit our mission profile. Both of these possibilities slowly emerged after preliminary conversations. The Vision to Mission group, Finance Committee and the Congregation Council have each discussed and prayed about these possibilities that could be good works God is presenting to us.

Now, before giving you what we know about each of these two ministries, I emphasize: final decisions have not been made; good people are exploring both opportunities; and the Council will continue to keep the congregation informed.

YMCA

The first new ministry is a partnership with the Lebanon County YMCA to establish both a year-round Day Care and a Summer Day Camp at Friedens. Essentially these are two proposals but, since they both originate with the "Y," I present them as one new ministry.

A survey done by the "Y" found the eastern portion of Lebanon County underserved by Day Care. Thus, they intend to start a state-certified, "four-star" day care and would like to place it at Friedens. When fully operational the Day Care will operate Monday through Friday, 6 am to 6 pm, and receive forty-five children. It will make use of the second level west wing of our building. The Day Care will not affect our relationship with the preschool. Children's church will continue to use the same rooms. We will need to help relocate the following ministries: the Adult Bible class to another second level space; WELCA to an easily accessible space for twelve to fifteen women; the Quilters, and their supplies, to a space that can easily accommodate both their good work and storage. We will also dispense with the library and redistribute the books.

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The finance committee is negotiating the lease arrangement with the Y. There will be a “start-up” monthly rent for a period of six months. Then the regular monthly rent will begin the seventh month and continue for the term of the lease. We anticipate Friedens will need to make some slight building modification in order to meet state certification standards. Specifics will be known following the state inspection.

Negotiations are also taking place between the “Y” and Friedens for an eleven-week, Monday-Friday Day Camp. The Camp would make use of the Pavilion, playground, and green space. The Pavilion will continue to be available for evening and weekend rental.

The “Y” director Phil Tipton is excited to have a partnership with Friedens and expressed hope that both Chuck Bissell and I would have regular interaction with the children.

Having the “Y” Day Care and Day Camp at Friedens gives us a marvelous opportunity to build relational bridges with families in our community. Through both we can practice what we preach, that we are a people who “know the gospel, embody the gospel, and welcome others into the gospel community.”

MINISTRY PARTNERSHIP

Over the past two years we have been building “relational bridges” into the ELCO school district - staff, students, and families. Presently, we are talking with school superintendent Julia Vincente about our being a partner with her vision for building community support for education. Our message board is able to “shout-out” accolades to students and staff, as well as give notice regarding upcoming events. Chuck Bissell and I attend ELCO events, thus increasing the number of people we know. At the last two “Fifth Quarter” youth events more than half the participants were the friends of Frieden’s youth. What we are forming is a “parish” concept for mission and ministry. This means we view everyone who lives in our surrounding community as people whom God would have us relate, show gospel hospitality, and work together.

Along with Friedens, Millcreek and St. Luke’s Lutheran congregations form an “equilateral triangle” (my spouse mathematician gave me the correct term) with the ELCO campus in the middle. Our congregations were founded in the horse and buggy days when church plants were made much closer than they are today. In fact, Millcreek congregation was organized fifty years ago from four smaller congregations occupying the same general area. The emerging vision pictures a partnership among the three congregations - one entity functioning out of three campuses. Right now, this is a “whiteboard” thought that invites our mutual reflection, prayer, and dialogue. Together we want to discern “God’s preferred and promised future” for his mission through the ministries of these three congregations.

After initial conversation, Millcreek has chosen not to take part at this time. Having just finished their mission profile, Millcreek will proceed with the call process to identify a new pastor.

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At St. Luke, the renewal and reformation group expressed interest in taking the next step. process. At Friedens, our Vision to Mission group, the Executive Group (committee leaders and council officers), and Congregational Council each believe the idea befits who we are and the previous commitments we've made.

It is also important to point out, that while the ELCO school district offers an easily defined mission field, we are not excluding building relationships with persons who live elsewhere.

We are only just starting to explore this possibility. Our list of questions grows, as it should. But we want you to know this possibility has emerged and is being considered. We welcome your questions and ask for your prayers.

FRESH EXPRESSIONS & NEW GROWTH

The message of the gospel remains the same just as scripture declares, *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever* (Hebrews 13:8). At the same time, how we embody the gospel and invite others into the gospel community changes with the times.

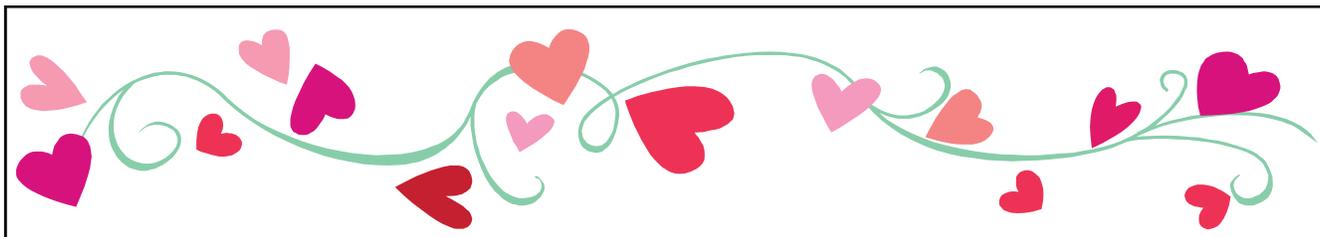
I await the spring and fresh signs of growth when the soil invites my return to cultivate and landscape. Praise God that spiritual growth and mission are not confined to one season or another. Rather it takes place whenever God's people remain open to see and enter the new possibilities being presented.

Together in Christ,
Pastor Robert



GLOBAL MISSIONS

Update:
Recent report from Lutheran World Relief that 52 Personal Care Kits were shipped to Honduras. Quilts and Fabric Kits have been shipped to Georgia, Angola, Thailand, Pakistan, Mali, and Burkina Faso.



FEBRUARY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 9-11 PM—Youth— Fifth Quarter	2  Groundhog Day
3 9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:45 AM— Traditional Service	4 5:45 PM—Co-ed Yoga Class	5 7 PM—Worship Group	6 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band	7 6:30 PM—“Three B” Bible study at Franklin Inn	8	9
10 9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:45 AM— Traditional Service	11 5:45 PM—Co-ed Yoga Class	12  Lincoln's Birthday 7 PM—Property Committee	13 9 AM—Women Sew 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band	14  Valentine's Day	15  DEADLINE: Newsletter Articles	16
17 9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:45 AM— Traditional Service	18  President's Day 5:45 PM—Co-ed Yoga Class 6:30 PM—Finance Committee	19 6:30 PM—Vision to Mission	20 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band	21 6:30 PM— Leadership Group	22  Washington's Birthday	23
24 9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:45 AM— Traditional Service	25 5:45 PM—Co-ed Yoga Class 6:30 PM— Endowment Committee	26	27 9 AM—Women Sew 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band	28 7 PM—Church Council		

Friedens Lutheran Church, Myerstown, PA
Church Council Meeting
January 24, 2019

Scott Stephenson called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Present: Lynn Appleby, Kim Garhart, Wendy Gilbert (Secretary), Brian Kleinfelter, Amanda Klopp (Vice President), Jim Kneasel, Scott Stephenson (President), Richard Stoner, Rev. Robert Wallace, Jr. (Pastor), Elaine Lasch

1. Kim Garhart opened the meeting with prayer and scripture.
2. Brian Kleinfelter made a motion to accept the December 20, 2018 Council Minutes. Richard Stoner seconded the motion and the motion passed.
3. The Agenda for the Congregational meeting on January 27, 2019 was reviewed. The meeting will be held in the sanctuary at 10:05 am following the 9 am worship service. Some items to be approved:
 - Election of Council
 - Election of Representative to Synod
 - Update on the continuing Endowment Projects
 - Receive Annual Report
 - Next Congregational events:
 - a. Congregational Meeting June 9, 2019
 - b. Table Talk Review
 - c. Congregational Picnic, Sunday August 25
4. The YMCA wants to enter a partnership with Friedens to operate a "four-star day care center. Scott Stephenson made a motion to move forward with discussion and negotiations on this potential partnership. Lynn Appleby seconded the motion and the motion passed.
5. Brian Kleinfelter made a motion to affirm the appointment of Jerry Zimmerman as Cemetery director. Jim Kneasel seconded the motion and the motion passed. Jerry will serve as chair for a period of one year and will review with the board whether to continue.
6. Amanda Klopp made a motion to affirm the operation of the Cemetery Board and the Congregation as two separate entities. Lynn Appleby seconded the motion and the motion passed.
7. Scott Stephenson made a motion for the Finance Committee to further explore the possible sale of undeveloped property. Brian Kleinfelter seconded the motion and the motion passed.
8. Scott Stephenson made a motion to move forward with the exploration of Mission Partnership with St. Luke's Lutheran Church. Amanda Klopp seconded the motion and the motion passed. The proposal would be the creation of the Eastern Lebanon County Lutheran Parish. Both congregations would enter a process of discovery and discernment. The envisioned destination is the formation of one congregation with two campuses. Another destination might be a shared missional focus with some shared staff and administration operations. Having a "parish" view of mission and ministry means all who live in the ELCO school district are recognized as "immediate neighbors" for whom God calls the congregation to serve. What is God's plan beyond "the now" for our church and community?
9. Jim Kneasel made a motion to approve the Synod Benevolence Mission Support of \$30,000.00 for the year 2019. Richard Stoner seconded the motion and the motion passed. This would remain the same amount as the prior year 2018.

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10. Scott Stephenson made a motion to approve Pastor’s salary to be set aside as “Housing Allowance”. Jim Kneasel seconded the motion and the motion passed. This would remain the same as the prior year 2018.
 11. Communications report: There was a request from the Life Line Screening Health services to once again host the screening program in Stauffer Hall, September, 2019. Wendy Gilbert will speak with Jenifer Seboek regarding the dates.
 12. The Endowment committee is receiving 2018 reports and 2019 applications.
 13. The following reports were reviewed: Family, Youth and Children, Endowment Projects, Financial report, Vision for Mission and Pastor’s report.
 11. Council has concluded the Flourish study program.
 12. Pastor Wallace made a motion to approve the request from Chuck Bissell to allow the Jr. And Sr. high youth group to host a St. Patrick’s lunch on March 17, 2019. Kim Garhart seconded the motion and the motion passed.
 13. Kim Garhart closed with prayer.
 14. **Next Council meeting will be Thursday, February 28, 2019 at 7:00 pm.**
 15. Meeting adjourned at 9:21 pm.
- Wendy Gilbert, Council Secretary



Bingo Buffs-Save the Date!

Support for the Lebanon Lutheran Mission Team whose mission effort is June 16-22, 2019

Bingo-Sunday March 24, 2019

Senior Center 7th and Maple Sts. Lebanon
 Doors will open either 11 or 11:30 with Games starting at 12:30 or 1. Complete details will follow soon.

Mission Opportunities



Immediate Mission Opportunities

Are you looking for fulfilling ways to spend these long winter days? Join the Lebanon Lutheran Mission Team + VOAD (Volunteer Organizations in Active Disasters) as they repair homes damaged from the August 31st storm. (Remember those floods?) Spontaneous workday notice and daily damage completion. Properties are local-Richland, Jonestown, and Annville.

For more information see Jan DuBois (717-273-3463) or contact Don Beatty of VOAD (duckgs31@comcast.net)



Thank you to Pastor Wallace for his daily visits, prayers and words of wisdom to me and my family while David was in ICU at the VA Medical Center.

Thank you to my church family for the cards and kind words of comfort following his passing.

Sincerely,
Anna Finn



Food Collection

On Sunday, February 3, food will be collected for the Lebanon County Food Bank. All gifts are welcomed. There is a need for frozen hams, canned meats and stews, canned fruit, canned vegetables, canned soups, peanut butter, jelly, towels/wash cloths, paper towels, toilet paper, facial tissues, and reusable plastic containers.

OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS		
	<u>December 31, 2018</u>	
	<u>November</u>	<u>YTD 11/30/2018</u>
<u>Current Giving</u>		
Goal	\$32,815.92	\$ 196,895.50
Received	\$34,606.00	\$ 155,518.26
Percent of Plan	105%	79%
<u>Spang Crest</u>		
Received	\$ 50.00	\$ 240.00
<u>Hunger</u>		
Received	\$ 50.00	\$ 615.00



To the members of Friedens family:
 Many thanks for remembering me at Christmas time with the delivery of cards and a poinsettia. I regret I was not in my apartment when delivery was made and could not visit with the dedicated messengers. Even with limited natural light the plant continues to thrive. Blessings on you as you continue to grow in your faith. This ministry at holiday time has great impact on us all.

Phyllis Rohland



ADULT STUDY & LIFE GROUPS

Adult Bible Study

Each Sunday at 8 am the Adult Bible Study meets under the leadership of John Smith. Along with scripture study following various course guides, the group practices a robust discipline of fervent prayer, attentive listening, and mutual encouragement.

“Three B Study”

“Bible, Burgers, & Beverage” is an adult study for persons who want to explore the scriptures at a “101” level. The group meets once a month on a Thursday evening from 6:30 to 8:00 at a local restaurant. There Pastor Wallace presents that month’s study in a style where every question is a good question deserving attention.

Lenten Study

Lent is a period of forty days before Resurrection Day (not counting the intervening Sundays). Since the early centuries of the Christian movement, followers of Jesus observed Lent with special worship, prayer, and other spiritual disciplines. It is a time when believers ponder the reality of God’s gracious love meeting us wherever we are.

On Ash Wednesday, March 6 at noon and at 7 pm, we begin Lent with worship and introduction to our study, “Anxious for Nothing: Finding Calm in a Chaotic World” based on the book by Max Lucado. The study continues on Thursday evenings March 14, 21, 28, April 4 and 11. The final segment is the evening message at the Maundy Thursday worship, April 18. That service will begin at 7 pm.

Life Groups - Seasonal

The 2019 seasonal *Life Group* will begin Thursday, April 25 at 6:30 pm and meet successive Thursday evenings through June 17 - nine sessions. *Life Group* concludes with dinner and fun on Thursday June 24th. Spring *Life Groups* also have the tradition of volunteering for the Lebanon United Way “Day of Caring” on Saturday, April 27. Groups select their own projects.

Spring *Life Groups* will study “Making Life Count: Following Jesus in the 21st Century” by Robert Logan and Tara Miller. “Bob” Logan taught one of Pastor Wallace’s doctoral courses and is his pastoral “coach.” The study has three sections and lesson nine concludes the second. Each group will then decide whether to hold four additional summer sessions to complete the final section.

Currently, *Life Group* director John Flesher and Pastor Wallace want to identify persons willing to serve as group facilitators. Please let them know if you would like to learn more.

Life Group - Ongoing

Following the year-long “Flourish” study, several *Life Groups* expressed interest in continuing to meet together. These groups relished the prospect of developing closer relationships with a particular small group. If your Flourish group wants to continue to meet together, or if you would like inclusion with an ongoing *Life Group*, please let either John Flesher or Pastor Wallace know. The ongoing groups will resume after Easter, engage in the “Making Life Count” study, and choose their own meeting night. Upon completing this study, Pastor Wallace will then assist ongoing *Life Groups* with identifying other interesting studies.